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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

December Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term December average:

| | |
|---|---|
| Great Lakes Basin | 96% |
| Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) | 102% |
| Lake Superior | 79% |
| Lakes Michigan-Huron | 110% |
| Lake Ontario | 69% |

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

December Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term December average:

# LEVEL news

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**Lake Ontario's level rises slightly**

## Conditions on Upper Lakes Continue to be Dry

For most of the Great Lakes, December was a repeat of the conditions that have occurred the past several months: below average precipitation and declining water levels. All of the lakes except Ontario declined as much or more than usual for this time of the year.

Lake Superior ended 1999 at almost exactly the same level as one year earlier, but about 19 cm below average. At the end of December, Lake Huron was 43 cm below average and about 37 cm above the record low set in 1964. Meanwhile, Lakes St. Clair and Erie ended the year 17 cm and 16 cm below average, respectively.

Unlike other parts of the system, water levels increased slightly during December on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Above average flows from the Ottawa River raised the level at Montreal Harbour above 6.0 metres for the first month since April. This permitted flows out of Lake Ontario to be relatively low for the month, which led to a slight rise in the lake's level despite below average water supplies to the lake. At the end of December Lake Ontario was 21 centimetres above last year's level and seven centimetres below average.

For the year of 1999, precipitation over the Great Lakes basin was near average, with above average amounts over Lake Superior's basin and below average amounts over Lake Erie's basin. The first seven months were generally wetter than normal, while the last five months were drier than normal over all areas except Lake Superior.

Air temperatures in eastern Canada during 1999 were the second-warmest on record since 1948, when national record-keeping began. The warmest year was 1998.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lake Superior | 99% |
| Lake Erie | 95% |
| Lake Huron | 91% |
| Lake Ontario | 89% |

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

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